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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 763
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James Russell "Russ"
Farrar for his remarkable achievements.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary person is James Russell "Russ" Farrar, who has distinguished himself as a citizen of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the loving son of James Clayton Farrar, who served as a funeral home director, and Agnes Watkins Farrar, who served as a nurse, James Russell Farrar was born on October 20, 1955, in Morristown and was raised in Jefferson City; his grandfather founded and operated Farrar Funeral Home in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, while studying journalism at the University of Tennessee, Mr. Farrar worked for the Labor Department of the State of Tennessee; interested in state labor law, he enrolled in Law School upon earning his Bachelor's degree and graduated from the University of Tennessee Law School with honors; and

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WHEREAS, Russ Farrar moved to Nashville, in 1987, when he accepted the position of Assistant Commissioner of Labor; and

WHEREAS, entering private practice in 1990, Russ Farrar built Farrar & Bates into a thriving and well-regarded firm, successful in the areas of civil litigation, federal practice, insurance defense, workers' compensation, civil rights, discrimination, governmental tort liability, real estate brokers errors and omission, governmental relations, entertainment law, and contracts; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Nashville Community, Mr. Farrar astutely serves as the Regional Counsel for the Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool, Inc., and as the General Counsel, Director of Governmental Affairs, and Lobbyist for the 17,000 members of the Tennessee Association of Realtors; he was selected by the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Tennessee to serve, in 1999, as the Public Member of the Legislative Study Committee set up to enact legislation governing compensation; and

WHEREAS, an avid fan of southern gospel music for many years, Russ Farrar serves with distinction as a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Quartet Convention, General Counsel for the Southern Gospel Music Guild, General Counsel for the Southern Gospel Music Trust Fund, and as a monthly Columnist for the Singing News Trade Review, adeptly writing on legal issues relating to the southern gospel music industry; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Mr. Farrar was elected President of the Southern Gospel Music Association (SGMA), an organization formed to preserve, protect, and promote the history and heritage of Southern gospel music; since the inception of SGMA in 1994, Russ Farrar has served as the organization's General Counsel; and

WHEREAS, an active and valuable member of SGMA, Mr. Farrar was instrumental in the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum being located at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge; since the museum's successful opening in April of 1999, it has celebrated a century of Southern Gospel Music with over one million annual visitors; and

WHEREAS, Russ Farrar was honored as the Singing News Super Fan before a packed house of 20,000 people at the National Quartet Convention in 1994, and was featured as “Southern Gospel Music’s Attorney” on the cover of the Singing News Trade Review in the May of 1997 issue; and

WHEREAS, a man deeply dedicated to his family, Russ Farrar has been the devoted husband to Marion May for over twenty-three years; together they are the proud parents of Jennifer and Kate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Farrar epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Russ Farrar for his significant contributions to the legal profession, the Southern Gospel Music Industry, and the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and recognize James Russell “Russ” Farrar for his numerous professional accomplishments as a public servant and as a private attorney, commend his steadfast service to the Southern Gospel Music Industry, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.